



Open Access Scholarly Publishing

The AOSIS journey

Pierre JT de Villiers

Managing Director: **OpenJournals Publishing**

*African Online Scientific Information Systems
(AOSIS) Pty Ltd*

Perspectives from an Open Access Publisher

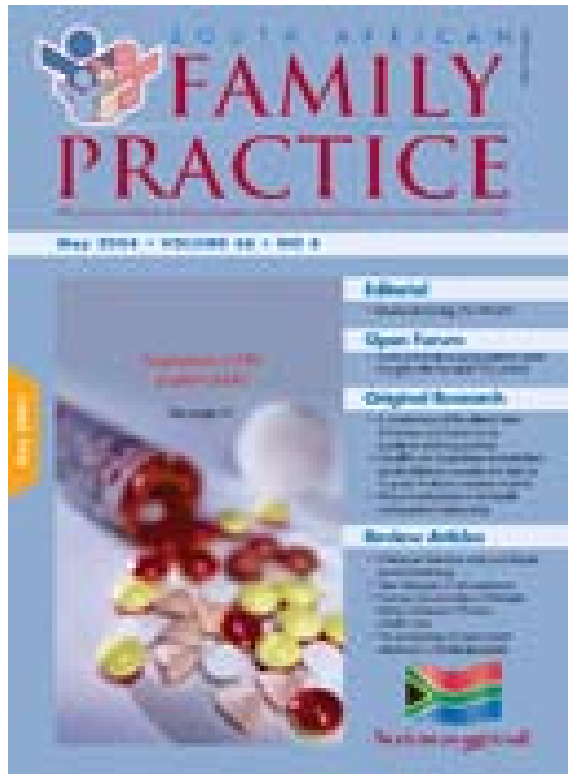
- How I become involved in OA
- The AOSIS journey 2005 – 2010
- Reflections on this journey



How I became involved in Open Access

South African Family Practice

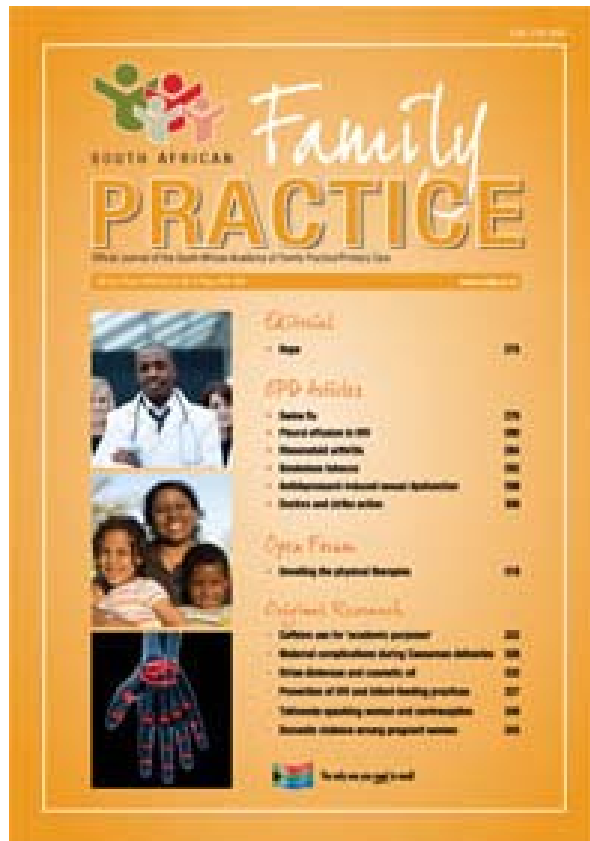
(incl. Geneeskunde)



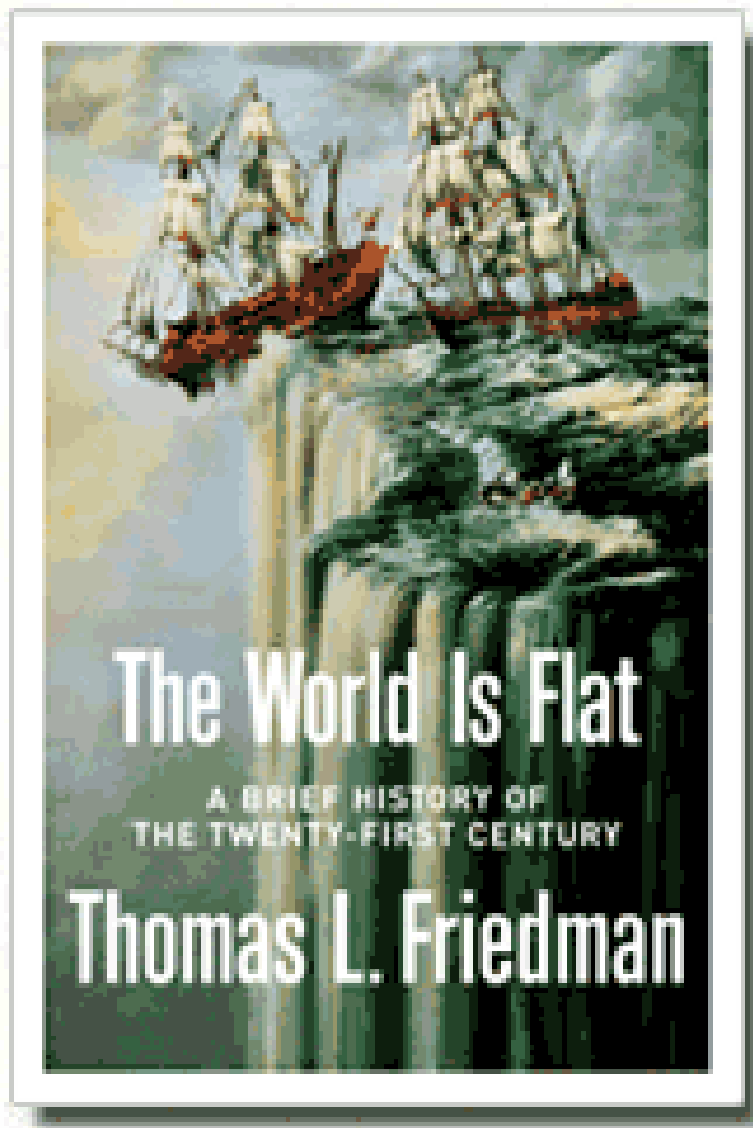
- Editor - 1998
- Society journal
- Print only – bi monthly
- 4000 free distribution to members & GP's
- Advertising income

South African Family Practice

(incl. Geneeskunde)

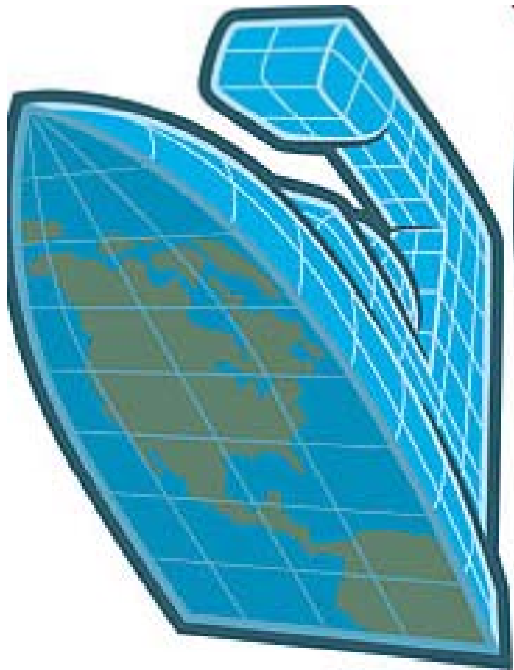


- 4 manuscripts on desk!
- Low submissions
- Locally read (?)
- Difficult production
- Not economically viable due to lack of interest amongst GP's



2005

World flatteners



Creative software

The internet

Open source software

Search engines

Outsourcing

2001 - Open source Software



Open Journal Systems (OJS)

6600 titles (July 2010)



South African Family Practice

Official journal of the [South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care](#)

Vol 52, No 4 - July/Aug 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Advertise
here...

e-mail: leandi@medpharm.co.za

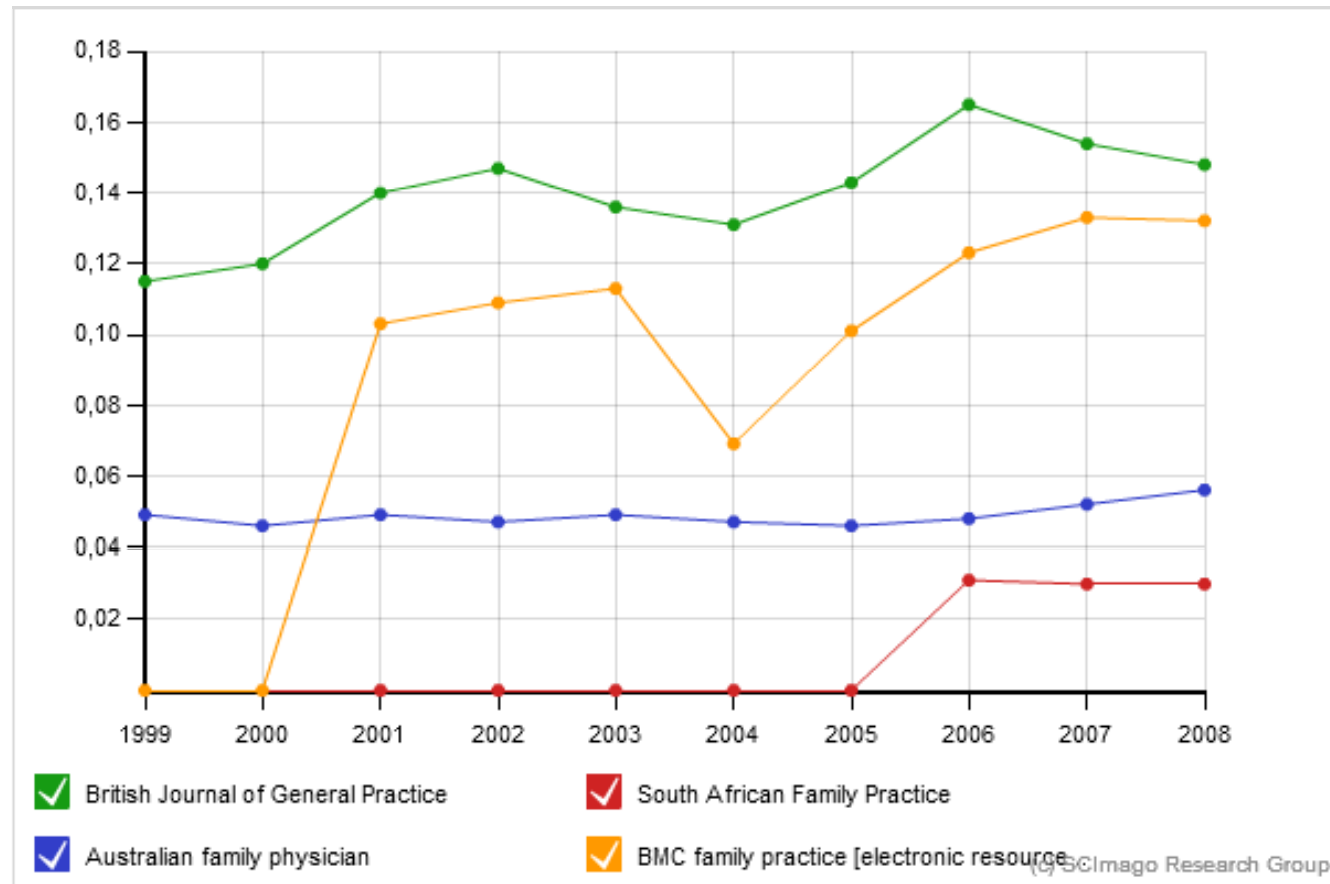
LANGUAGE

English

- Online December 2005
- First OJS journal in RSA
- Open Access June 2006

SAFP on the charts

SJR SCImago
Journal & Country
Rank



SAFP cities Oct 2010



The AOSIS Journey





Est. 1999



www.ecpd.co.za

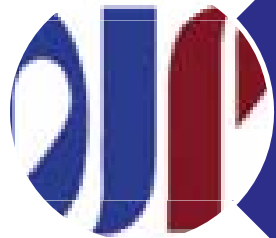


E-Learning services
www.ituta.net

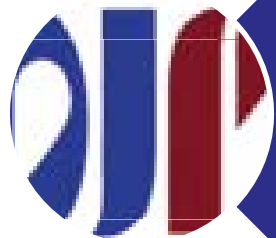
Need: Services for OA journals



OJS support



Manuscript copyediting,
proofreading



Online publishing
PDF, HTML, XML

Est. 2007

Open Access



Online production and publication

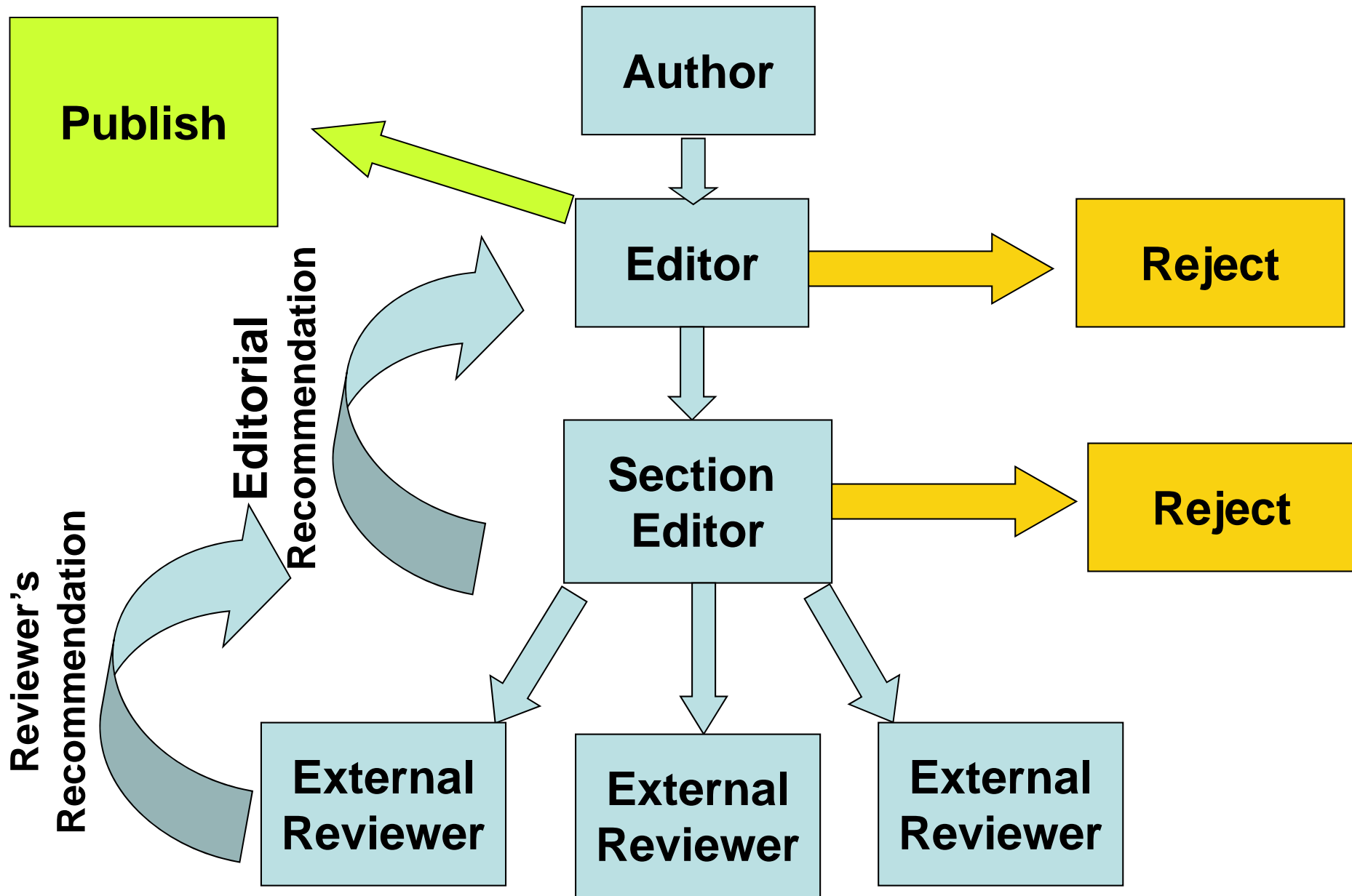
OJS

Quality

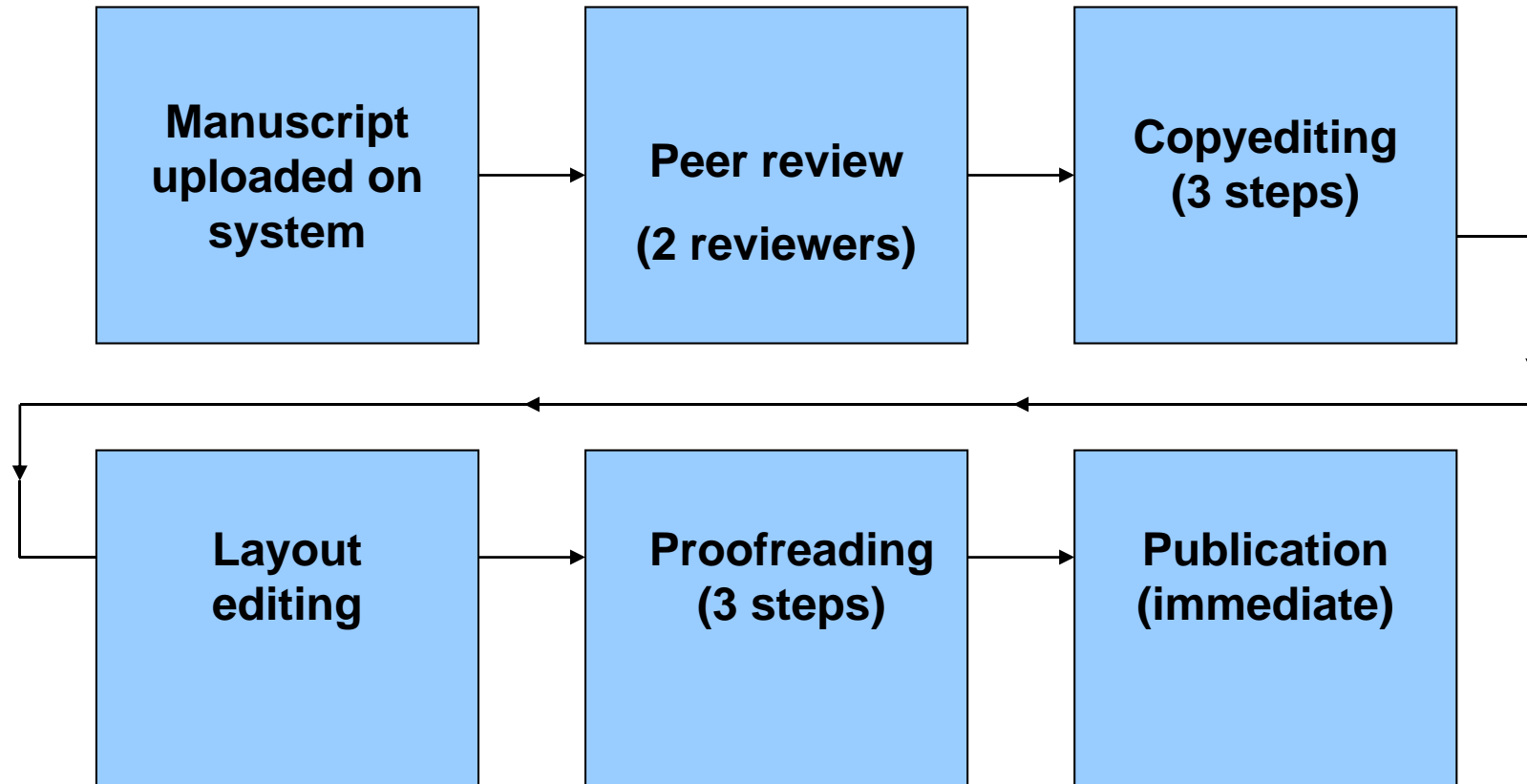


higher education
& training

Department:
Higher Education and Training
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



OJP Production Flow



Starting the journey

2007

OJS support for
Medpharm Publications



MEDPHARM
PUBLICATIONS

10 titles



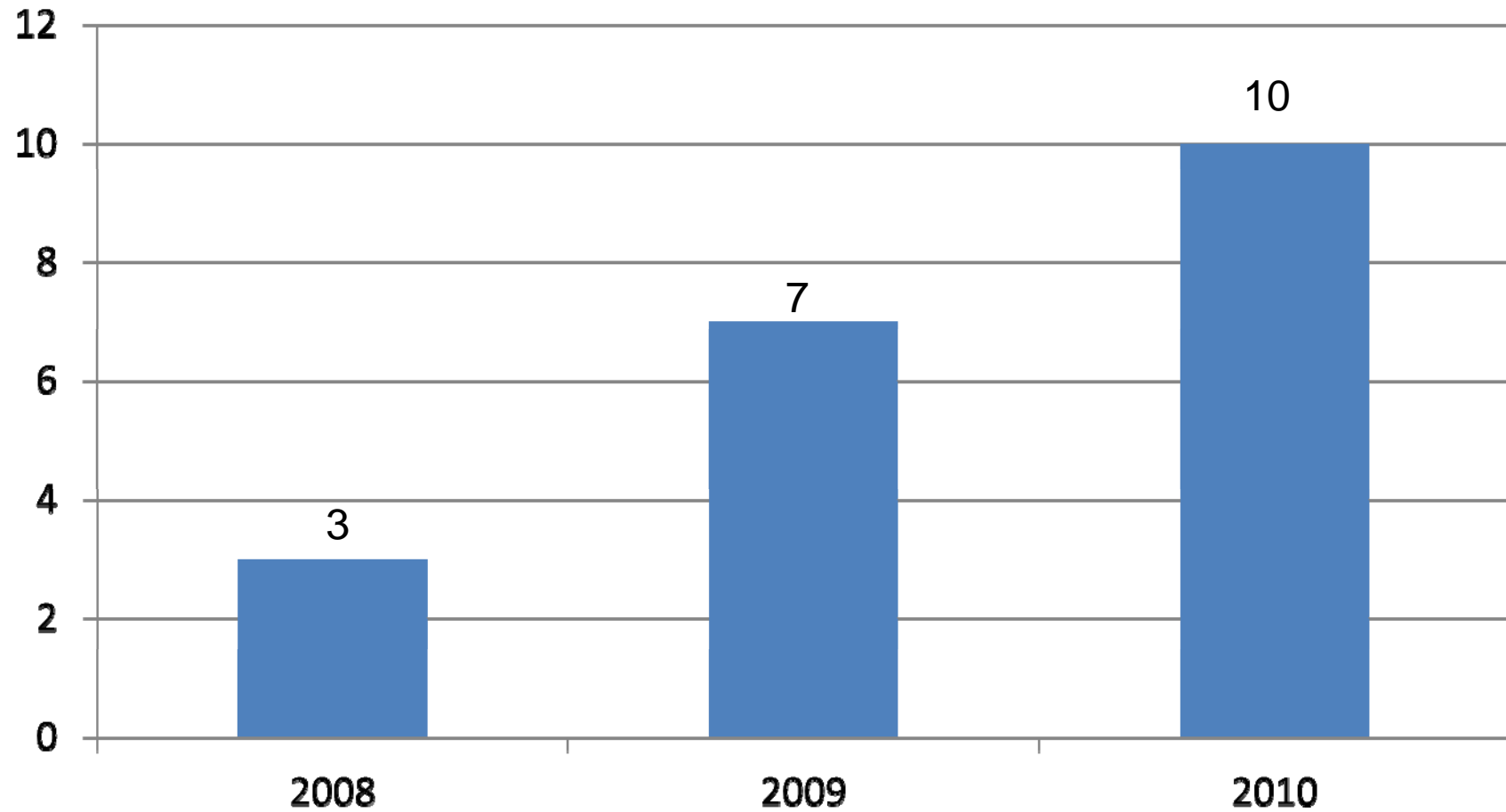
2008

First OA journal



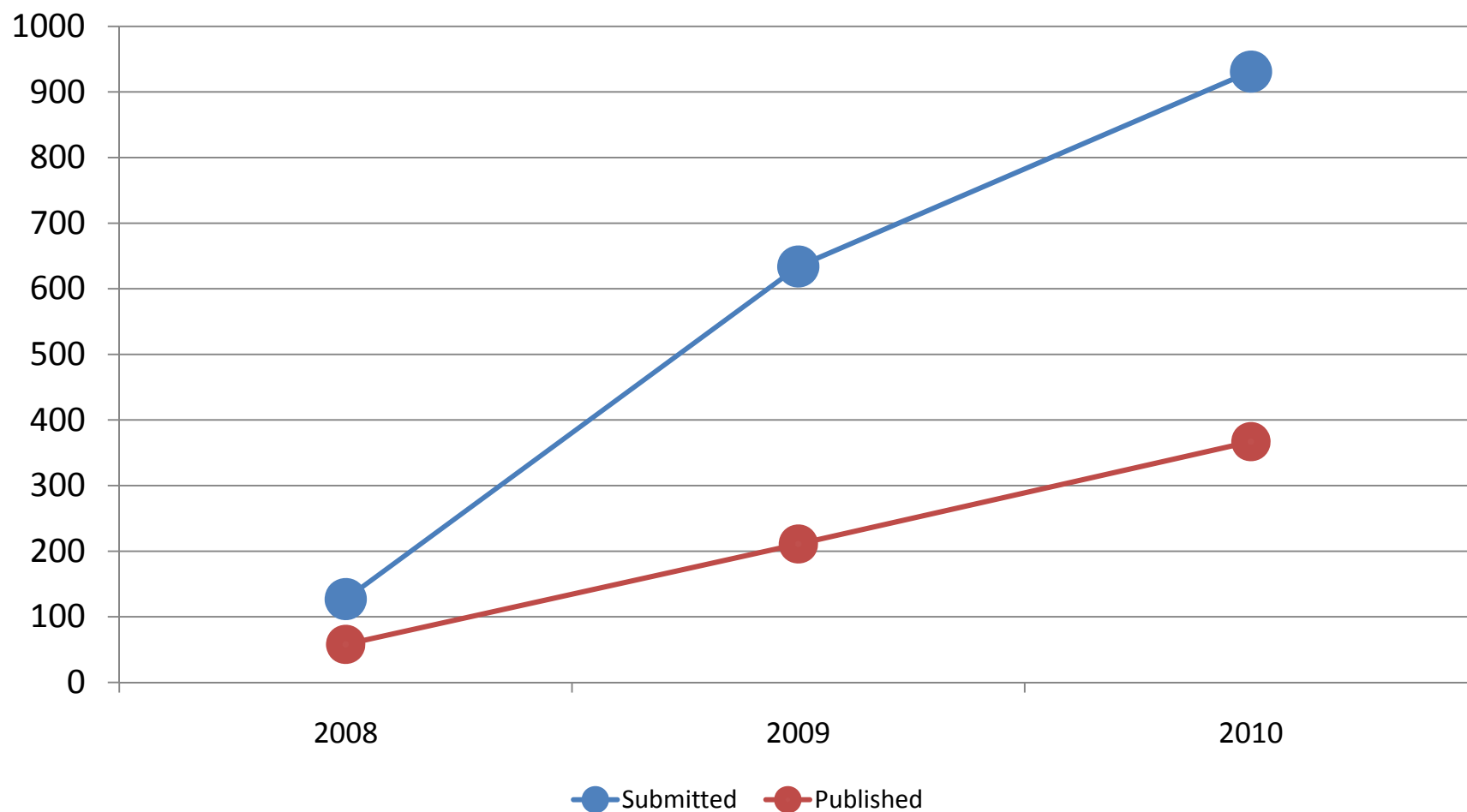
KOEDOE
AFRICAN PROTECTED AREA CONSERVATION
AND SCIENCE

Title growth



Manuscript growth

Submitted v/s published manuscripts



Achievements

First OJS deployment in RSA (SAFP) → 23

First DOI registration with Crossref
from RSA www.crossref.org



Scielo SA – first publisher to join
www.scielo.org.za



Achievements

First XML journal publication in RSA
(PDF, HTML & XML)

First OASPA member
from Sub-Saharan Africa



First SPARC Europe seal for open access journals for an African journal



Reflection on the journey



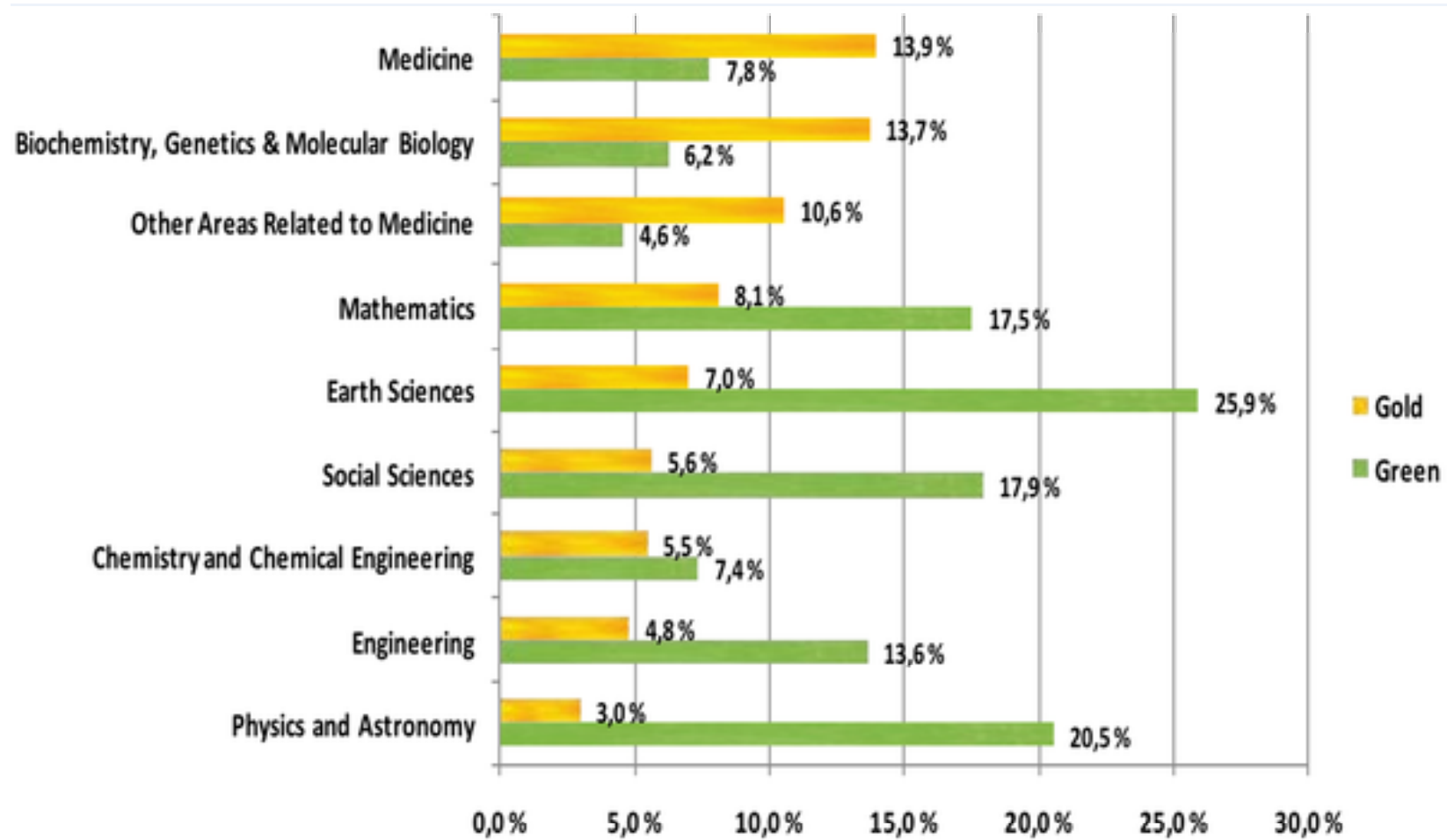
Conversion to OA is slow (but sure)

Current situation (OA) - 2010

- **International estimates: 3-14% (Gold)**
- **African Journals Online (AJOL)**
 - 103/397 Peer reviewed journals in Africa (26%)
- **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)**
 - RSA 26/315 (8%)
- **Own count 2009 = 25% of DHET accredited**

OA per discipline - 2009

Bo-Christer Björk et al, PloS One, June 2010



Obstacles to OA conversion in RSA

- Society membership: benefits → closed club
- In-house control: individuals, universities (fear of outsourcing)
- Fear of change and technology: XML, DOI, no print

Obstacles to OA conversion in RSA

- Financial viability: Title owners reaping benefits, but not investing
- Perceived costs: Outsourcing v/s hidden costs – staff, offices, communication
- Commercial toll access publisher buy-outs (honey trap)

Author side publication fees (page fees) feasible in RSA

Who pays for the beer?

Production cost

Author side publication fees

OR

Title owner subsidy

OR

Both (mix)



Page fees experience

- Usually paid by institution – growing support
- DHET subsidy support
- Range R1,500 – R5,000 per article
 - Theology
 - Industrial psychology
 - Health science
 - Management science

Supporting research, not business models

“The **institutions** that pay for journal subscriptions aren't trying to support the TA business model; they're **trying to support research.**

They won't follow the business model;
they'll follow the authors.”

Peter Suber

Who is in the driving seat?

*"I think you will quickly discover that journals (even the arrogant ones) need **authors** more than authors need them."*

Richard Smith

Impact factors/prestige factor

“Measuring up” challenge for OA

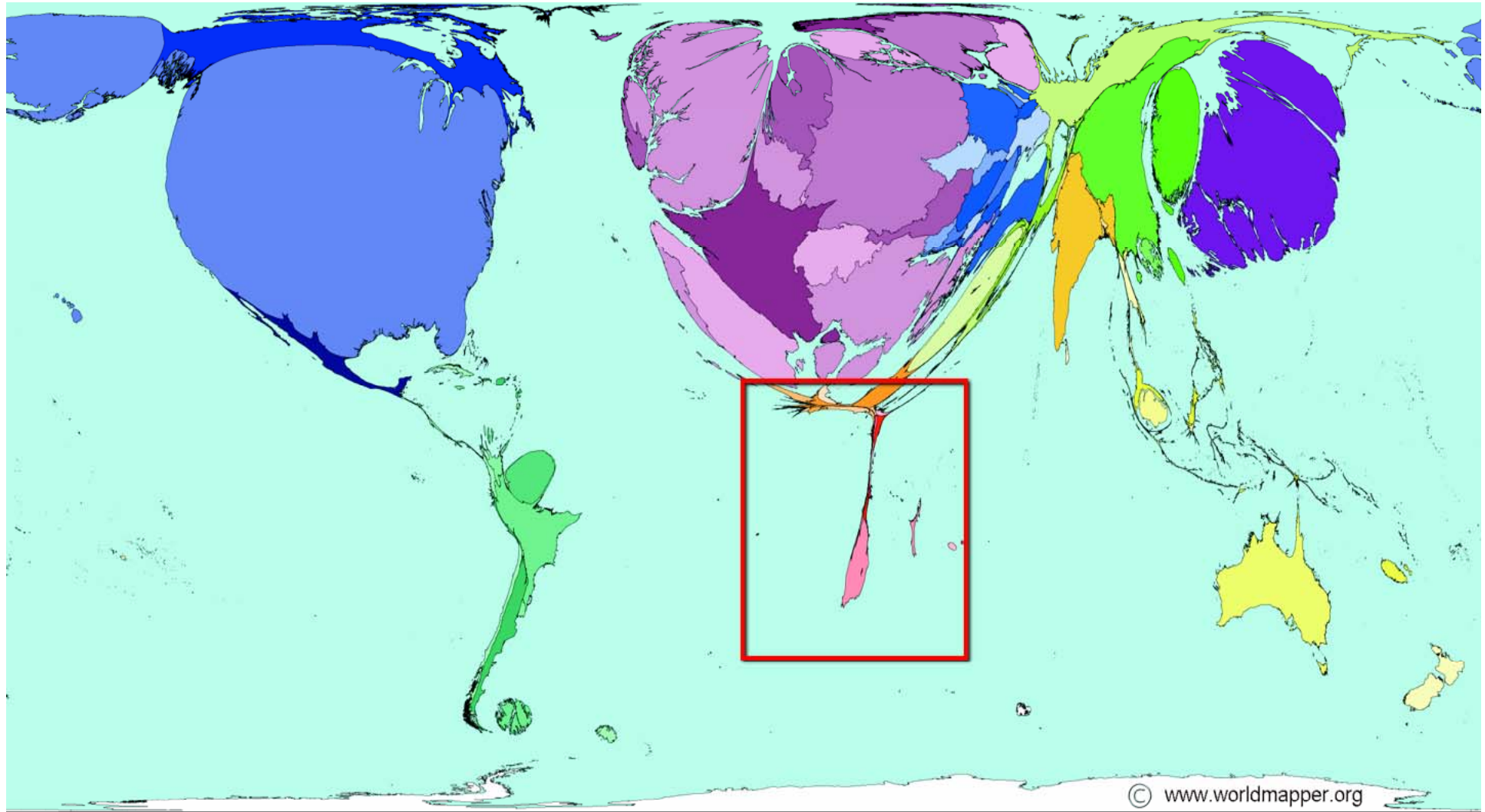
- Universities/NRF use prestige & impact for reward (surrogate for quality)
- Most high-prestige journals are TA and have good IF's
- Most OA journals are new (no, low IF)
- Progress: some OA journals top IF

Prestige

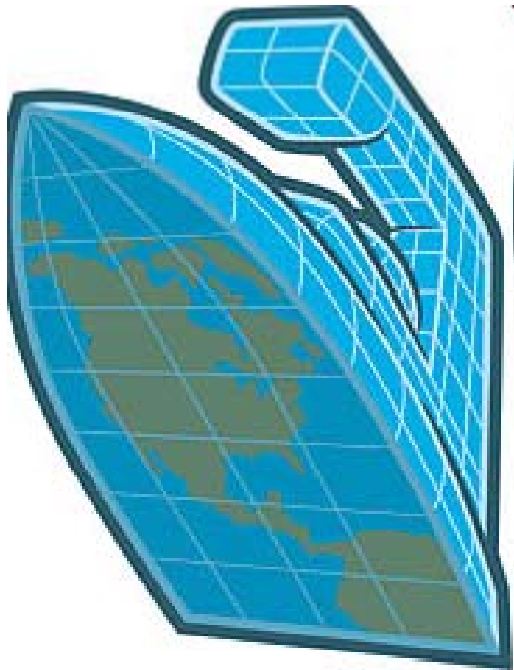
Prestige is the flywheel preserving the present system long into the era when it might have been superseded by a superior alternative. Or viewed from the other side, it's the flywheel **delaying progress**.

Peter Suber

Science research papers 2001



World flatteners



Creative software

The internet

Open source software

Search engines

Outsourcing

The key.....is OA



pierre@aosis.co.za